

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of processing a group of spatially related seismic data traces, comprising:
 5 defining seismic data windows extending over selected portions of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;
 generating a frequency spectrum of the seismic data within successively selected windows of said seismic data traces by applying a transform to said successively selected windows having poles on the unit z-circle, where z is the z-transform; and
 10 utilizing said frequency spectra to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the frequency value of the frequency component having the greatest amplitude within each said frequency spectrum;
 and
 15 wherein said frequency values are utilized to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data comprises a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising generating a substantially horizontal
 20 cross-section of said seismic data to depict the location of thin beds.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the greatest amplitude of the frequency components within each said frequency spectrum; and

wherein said amplitudes are utilized to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

5 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said data comprises a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising generating a substantially horizontal cross-section of said seismic data to depict the location of thin beds.

10 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining for each generated frequency spectrum whether the peakedness of said
generated frequency spectrum exceeds a selected value of peakedness; and
for each generated frequency spectrum for which the peakedness exceeds said
selected value of peakedness, utilizing the frequency spectrum to generate data related to
15 the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said peakedness is kurtosis.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining the frequency component having the greatest amplitude within each said
20 frequency spectrum:

calculating the kurtosis of each said frequency spectrum;

determining if the kurtosis of each said frequency spectrum exceeds a selected value
of kurtosis; and

utilizing said frequency components having the greatest amplitude within said frequency spectra having a kurtosis value which exceeds said selected value of kurtosis to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said data comprises a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising generating a substantially vertical cross-section of said seismic data to depict the location of thin beds.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said transform is the maximum entropy transform.

10 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said transform has from one to four poles on the unit z-circle.

15 15. A method of processing a group of spatially related seismic data traces, comprising:
defining seismic data windows extending over selected portions of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

generating a frequency spectrum of the seismic data within successively selected windows of said seismic data traces by applying a maximum entropy transform to said successively selected windows;

20 determining the frequency value of the frequency component having the greatest amplitude within each said frequency spectrum and

utilizing said frequency values to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

25 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said data comprises a substantially horizontal cross-section of a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

17 The method of claim 15 wherein said method is implemented on a digital computer and comprises the following steps:

- inputting default operational parameter values;
- inputting operational parameters for said group of spatially related seismic data
- 5 traces;
- obtaining data set parameters from a first trace of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;
- obtaining a first selected window of data from a first selected seismic trace;
- calculating coefficients for the maximum entropy transform.
- 10 utilizing said coefficients to calculate said frequency spectrum; and
- determining the frequency value of the frequency component having the greatest amplitude within each said frequency spectrum.

15 18. A method of processing a group of spatially related seismic data traces, comprising:
defining seismic data windows extending over selected portions of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

generating a frequency spectrum of the seismic data within successively selected windows of said seismic data traces by applying a maximum entropy transform to said
20 successively selected windows;

determining the greatest amplitude of the frequency components within each said frequency spectrum and

utilizing said amplitudes to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

25 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said data comprises a substantially horizontal cross-section of a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

20 The method of claim 18 wherein said method is implemented on a digital computer and comprises the following steps:

inputting default operational parameter values;

5 inputting operational parameters for said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

obtaining data set parameters from a first trace of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

obtaining a first selected window of data from a first selected seismic trace;

calculating coefficients for the maximum entropy transform.

10 utilizing said coefficients to calculate said frequency spectrum; and

determining the greatest amplitude of the frequency components within each said frequency spectrum.

21. A method of processing a group of spatially related seismic data traces, comprising:
defining seismic data windows extending over selected portions of said group of
15 spatially related seismic data traces;

generating a frequency spectrum of the seismic data within successively selected windows of said seismic data traces by applying a maximum entropy transform to said successively selected windows;

20 determining the frequency component having the greatest amplitude within each said frequency spectrum:

calculating the kurtosis of each said frequency spectrum;

determining if the kurtosis of each said frequency spectrum exceeds a selected value of kurtosis; and

25 utilizing said frequency components having the greatest amplitude within said frequency spectra having a kurtosis value which exceeds said selected value of kurtosis to generate data related to the location of thin beds in the earth's subsurface.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said data related to the location of thin beds comprises a substantially vertical cross-section of a three-dimensional volume of seismic data.

23 The method of claim 21 wherein said method is implemented on a digital computer and comprises the following steps:

inputting default operational parameter values;

inputting operational parameters for said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

obtaining data set parameters from a first trace of said group of spatially related seismic data traces;

obtaining a first selected window of data from a first selected seismic trace;

calculating coefficients for the maximum entropy transform.

utilizing said coefficients to calculate said frequency spectrum;

calculating the kurtosis of said spectrum; and

determining whether said calculated kurtosis exceeds a preselected kurtosis value.

24. A device adapted for use by a digital computer wherein a plurality of computer instructions readable by said digital computer and defining the process of claim 1 and instructing said computer to perform said process are encoded.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein said device is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic tape, a magnetic disk, and an optical disk.